



HF Happenings



620

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

August
2014

YL Activity Week in NZ

As New Zealand's YL Activity Week was such a great success last year, they have decided to do it again this year.

Dates will be 21 to 27 September inclusive running from 8 to 9 pm each night. Frequencies 80 m 3695, 20 m, National repeater system and 2 m repeaters.

We encourage all WARO members to participate and would like all other YL's to come up on air and chat with other ladies. So why not come and join us and have a contact and conversation with some amazing women in and around New Zealand.

Keep the dates handy as we would love to have a great turn out again.



"December is
Youngsters on
the Air month!"

August

23 - Radio technology in Action in Johannesburg;
Rotary Great Train Race, Middelburg
29 and 30 - Hantam Meat Festival, Calvinia
29 to 31 - Gauteng Getaway Show, JHB
31 - CQ South Africa CW Contest
28 Aug To 5 Sept - Clanwilliam Wild Flower Show

September

5 - Casual Day; Secretary's Day
6 - Cellar2Cellar Trail Run and Wine Experience, Stellenbosch
6 and 7 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; Staalwater Trail Run & M.T.B. Cghallenge, Caledon
11 - Closing date October RAE
13 - Radio Technology in Action in Pretoria; Baa-Baa-Licious Braai Feast, Riebeek Valley; Baviaanskloof Trail Run, Geelhoutbos
16 - World Ozone day
21 to 27 - IARU Region 1 General Conference, Albenia, Bulgaria
24 - Heritage Day; National Braai Day
24 to 28 - Oceana Hout Bay Seafood Festival
25 - Rosh Hashanah
27 and 28 - CQ WW RTTY Contest

What about a YL Activity Week in ZS?



JOTA and CQ Hou Koers

These two events will be on the air over the weekend of 17, 18 and 19 October and hopefully you and your club have made contact with the local Scout Group, Guide Company or Voortrekker Commando and started the arrangements.

If you are looking for a Scout Group near you, visit <http://scouts.org.za/scouts-near-you/>, for Girl Guide Companies, visit <http://www.girlguides.org.za/old/index.php/regions> and for the Voortrekkers, visit <http://www.voortrekkers.org.za/Gebiede.htm> or contact Andries, ZS6VL, at andries.visagie@natref.com. Do something special for the youth of our country.

If you would like a special JOTA or CQ Hou Koers call sign, complete the ICASA application form, add a motivation and submit it via the South African Radio League.



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfm.co.za/sota.asp



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CQ Southern Africa HF Contests

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa (refer to General Rules 1.b.) as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands.

The SARL HF CW contest takes place on Sunday 31 August 2014 from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC (15:00 to 18:30 CAT). The following frequencies may be used

The following categories of participation are available - a) Single Operator Single Band; b) Single Operator All Band; c) Multi Operator Single Band or d) Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete.

The exchange is a RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. Digital contacts count 2 points. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band. Count 2 points for each stations contacted on all three bands. The call areas are - Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte, and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island. Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

Awards. Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in each contest. There is also a trophy for the highest combined score in both contests. A trophy is awarded to the CW contestant in his or her first year of CW achieving the highest score. Candidates for this trophy shall state the date of the issue of the licence on the summary sheet.

Logs can be submitted in Cabrillo / ADIF format or make use of the MS Excel Spreadsheet available from www.zs4bfn.co.za/downloads.asp. Send your log to the Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club by 24 August 2014 to zs4bfn@gmail.com or zs4bfn@netactive.co.za

SARL HF Digital Contest Results

The Committee only received eleven (11) logs for the SARL HF Digital Contest held on 17 August 2014. 206 QSOs were made by these 11 radio amateurs. The results are as follows

- 1st Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, 120 points
- 2nd Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 84 points
- 3rd Noel Hammond, ZR6DX, 76 points
- 4th Nico Oelofse, ZS4N, 60 points
- 5th Theo Bresler, ZS6TVB, 54 points
- 6th Theunis Potgieter, 44 points
- 7th Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, 36 points
- 8th Brian Best, ZS5SB, 26 points
- 9th Frans Marais, ZS4FM, 22 points
- 10th Michael Wolfe, ZS1CO, 20 points
- 11th Geoff Levey, ZS6C, 12 points

Club Competition

- 1st West Rand ARC, 208 points
- 2nd Bloemfontein ARC, 166 points
- 3rd Pretoria ARC, 54 points
- 4th Port Elizabeth ARS, 44 points
- 5th Lichtenburg ARC, 36 points
- 6th Cape Town ARC, 22 points

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Kuiffontein Guest Farm and Farm stall on the N1 at Springfontein, southern Free State

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Highest score on a single band - Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, 56 points on 20 metres.

Thank you for all the logs and congratulations to Roger and the West Rand. Lucky draw winner - SARL News on Sunday.

IARU HF Championship Records

The log checkers and write-up authors are getting ready to do their work on the 2014 IARU HF Championship results - wouldn't it be terrific if the records were up to date? Previously maintained by the sorely-missed Ken Adams, K5KA, (SK), IARU HF records were last current in 2003 and consist of all-time category records and records in each category for the land-based ITU zones. If you can contribute some keyboard time, all of the IARU results are available online through ARRL Contest Results web page <http://arrl.org/contest-results-articles> and the searchable online databases <http://www.arrl.org/results-database>. It would be acceptable to have volunteers taking a continent or category or clubs working together to maintain the data set. If you are interested, please contact your editor contest-update@arrl.org or the IARU HF author, Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, n4ydu@yahoo.com and we'll see what we can accomplish.

Cabrillo Log Format

In another example of the Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) <http://www.wwrof.org/> helping to support some of contesting's most valued assets, it is has assumed ownership and control of the widely-used Cabrillo Log Format Specification <http://wwrof.org/cabrillo/>. Originally created by Trey Garlough, N5KO, and recently maintained by Bob Wilson, N6TV, the specification was developed to provide a consistent log format for contest sponsors. Contest organizers including CQ, ARRL and DARC quickly supported the idea. More importantly and key to its viability, leading contest logging program authors such as K1EA, N6TR, K8CC, W5XD, EI5DI and others also embraced the concept from the start. Looking ahead and acting on behalf of WWROF, Randy Thompson, K5ZD, has agreed to administer the standard on behalf of the contesting community. A review process for change requests will be announced at a later date.

Little Contests, Big Results

Ward, NØAX

One of my local radio clubs, the St Louis and Suburban Radio Club (WØSRC) is hosting a 2 metre FM sprint contest this weekend on Saturday evening. As contests go, it's a short one and unlikely to cause much QRM on the band. The basics - 19:00 to 22:00; simplex channels from 147.42 to 147.56; exchange of call sign, contact serial number and Zip code. Operators can stay home, set up from the nearest high spot or drive around as a mobile. (I think I might try that last one.)

What's the big deal? No one is going to get the rate meter much over 60 QSOs per hour for very long. The biggest log might be 100 QSOs. Maximum distance might be 30 miles. Why is this newsworthy in a contest newsletter? Because it's an example of how to introduce new amateurs and those looking for something new to competitive operating, getting more out of their equipment and learning some operating skills.

This type of activity is one source of new contest operators and, more importantly, the more activities a amateur experiences, the more likely that amateur is to be a lifetime amateur. It is uncommon that a person selects one particular niche in one particular type of activity and finds that to be enough for a lifetime. Hams who don't get a glimpse of the other things amateur radio has to offer often don't renew their license or become inactive.

Amateur radio, being as broad as it is, we might think there's no excuse for not putting a toe in some of the various waters but we all need encouragement to give it a try. I remember my Novice days and being encouraged to enter the Novice Roundup by my friends. Hey, that was fun! An invitation from the manager of



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the Slow Speed Net led to a lot of traffic handling, even if I did check in with two pieces of non-existent traffic for Kansas City because I mistakenly thought the example was instructions for checking in! No harm, no foul! What was key in both instances was personal invitations and guidance by more experienced hams.

Start small and easy - inviting amateurs of any level to jump right in to a full-blown expert-level activity may not yield the intended results. Finding more casual events compatible with beginner skills is far more likely to be remembered fondly by the new participant. Take a look at the list of available contests for the next two weeks - there are a number of short, easy-going sprints, state QSO parties, and specialty contests in which the beginner can have fun.

The next step is to give a little of *your* time to show them the ropes. Or to help your club sponsor a local contest or "contest within a contest". Success can be as close at hand as showing someone how to adjust their squelch control to copy a weak station or suggesting the use of phonetics or explaining how Zip codes are like these grid square things.

There are many opportunities available to all of us every weekend. Take the opportunity to help others take the little steps that lead to a lifetime journey.

This is a Nice Club project - look at a Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon. Decide on the length of the contest - 1 hour or longer. Simplex operation - FM and SSB. Home station, mobile station (vehicle or bicycle) or field station (SOTA, RaDAR, IOTA, etc.). Exchange of call sign and serial number. And the Club can sponsor a prize or prizes! [1st prize a weekend for two at nkandla, 2nd prize two weekends for two at nkandla, etc]

Transmission Line Transformers

Updating the classic reference Transmission Line Transformers by Jerry Sevick, W2FMI, (SK) to a 5th edition has been completed by Raymond Mack, W5IFS. A significant advance from the familiar 4th edition, the revisions underway at Jerry's death involved significant new material on ferrite properties and the behaviour of copper wire in this application. The newly completed version of book has been reorganized more like a textbook, further increasing its value to amateurs and professional engineers.

<http://edn.com/design/analog/4432492/Book-review-Jerry-Sevick-s-Transmission-Line-Transformers>

Word to the Wise

Tram - this is an excellent method of lifting antennas to the tops of guyed towers, especially if festooned with other antennas. By using a tram cable that extends well away from the tower, the antenna can ride a tram pulley directly to the top and even be lowered into place for the climber to attach. No more trying to manoeuvre all those elements around guys! Information on tramping is available in the ARRL's Antenna Book <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Antenna-Book-22nd-Edition/> as well as tower climbing books by K4ZA <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Antenna-Towers-for-Radio-Amateurs/> and K7LXC <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Up-The-Tower-Champion-Radio/>.

Hooking up mobile rigs

Hooking up mobile rigs and other medium and light loads to a vehicle's electrical system can be quite a trick! One possible solution is to use an automotive "fuse tap" as described by Richard, AA5VU. Seen in the photo at right and available at auto parts stores, the fuse tap is inserted in place of an existing fuse (replaced on the fuse tap) and creates a separate, fused current path for the new circuit. Use caution, however - just because the new circuit is fused doesn't necessarily mean the wiring supplying the fuse block can handle any number

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A fuse tap like this one from Pep Boys auto supply creates a new circuit in parallel with an existing circuit. Both circuits are fused but you still have to keep current within the limit of the overall connection to the battery.

Wen-Do-Lin Traveller's Rest (ZS4D) at Glen, just off the N1
<http://www.wen-do-lin.com> e-mail: mcwilson@telkomza.net

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of taps! A 25 or 50 W transceiver used with a typical 25% transmit duty cycle will probably be okay, but installing several to power various loads could lead to an expensive overload of the wiring to the battery.

(Thanks also to Steve AG1YK)

Get on the RaDAR....and GO!

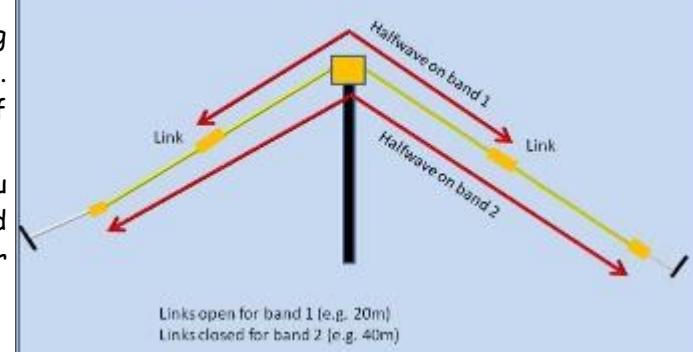
RA
DAR
GOES GLOBAL

SOTABEAMS Making Linked Dipoles

Linked dipoles are a popular form of multi-band HF antenna. They consist of a dipole with "links" in the legs of the antenna. By opening or closing the links you can alter the length of the dipole. The links have to be at exactly the right places of course.

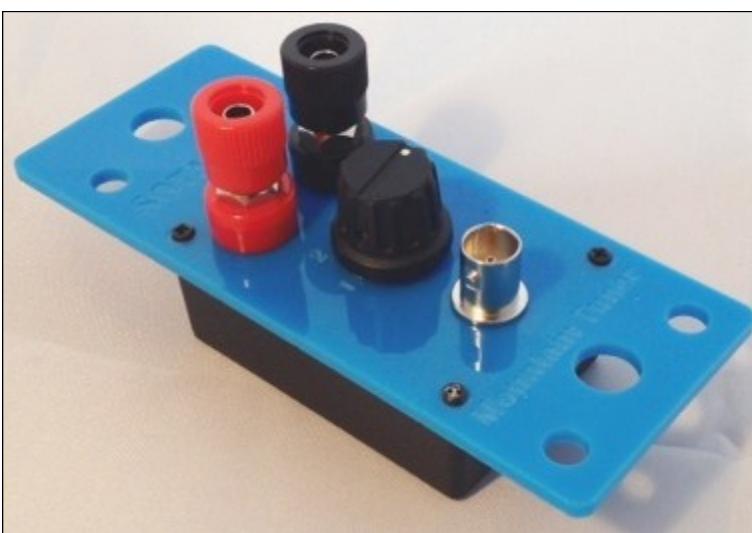
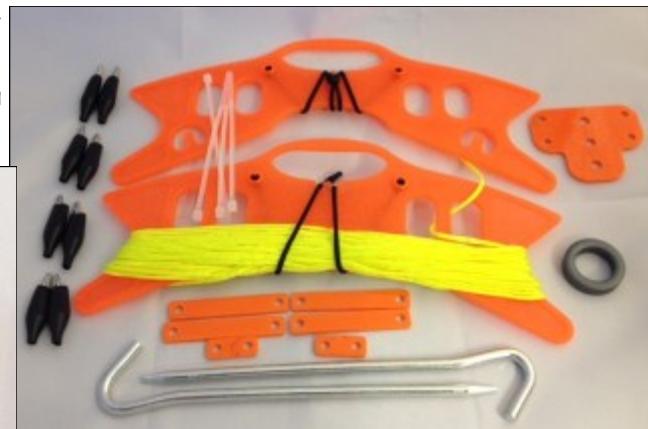
Designing linked dipoles is much easier if you have some software to do the numbers. I have designed an Excel spreadsheet that you can use to design your own two, three or four-band linked dipoles.

Two Band Linked Dipole shown for illustration only.



Download it here <http://sotabeams.us6.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=f76e7dd97c&e=9e4871b275>

New linked dipole hardware kit - we have put together a kit of parts to help you to make your own super-light linked dipole with balun. It has all the harder-to-get bits. You just add coax, wire and a sprinkle of time!



New: Mountain Tuner Kit

Our Mountain Tuner is a QRP Tuner for popular end-fed half-wave antennas. It covers 40 to 17 m. Several people have asked us to provide it in kit form, so here it is. Kit or ready-built, it's your choice.

Click here to find out more. <http://sotabeams.us6.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=b6aa75b92b&e=9e4871b275>

Good to know... Most of SOTABEAMS' 170 products are unique <http://sotabeams.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=7f14fe8072&e=9e4871b275>

Customers outside Europe pay the lower prices shown on our website - saving an additional 20%
Happy antenna designing! Thanks and 73 Richard, G3CWI



December is Youngsters on the Air month!

Is your Club geared to assist young people to participate? Introduce them to amateur radio.

To repair a rotating 80 metre dipole, Steve, N2IC, discovered a method by VE6WZ of building loading coils <http://www.gsl.net/ve6wz/coil.htm>. The replacements have now been up for 10 years at VE6WZ without failure. (Thanks, Steve N2IC)

Since you don't want bird nests and wasps inside an antenna boom, do not leave it open. Dan, N5AR, uses small screens of hardware cloth in each end. Cut discs of hardware cloth a couple of inches larger than the boom diameter. Then cut radial slits every inch or so around the outside edge. Bend the resulting flaps in so they will slide into the boom and stay in place. The galvanized screen also allows for drainage and air circulation, too.

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Selecting and connecting a microphone for older radios can be a challenge. G4WPW has published a good web page on wiring the microphones <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rq4wpw/date.html> - but as far how to choose a particular microphone for a particular rig, that's a different story. Most of the radio manuals specify what type of microphone input circuit they have - that should clue you in as to whether you can use a certain type of microphone (dynamic, electret, etc.) without some kind of conditioning/buffering circuit. The Heil Sound microphone primer <http://www.heilsound.com/pro/images/mic-primer/MicPrimer2012.pdf> may be just what you need!

An expanded, downloadable version of QST's Contest Corral in PDF format is available at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

The period covered is 25 August to 1 September 2014

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB
19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 August

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 4 September 2014

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2014/rsprint.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 30 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 August

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

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02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 August 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

Colorado QSO Party

12:00 UTC 30 August to 04:00 UTC 31 August

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF

Classes: Single Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile Single Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP or low; Mobile Multi-Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP or low; Portable Single Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP or low; Portable Multi-Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP or low; School- CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: CO: Name and county; W/VE: Name and state or province; DX: Name and DXCC prefix

Work stations: Once per band per mode per CO county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO; Double QSO points for countries outside of W/VE

Multipliers: CO Stations: Each CO county, state, VE province, DXCC country, maritime region once per mode; Non-CO: Each county once per mode

Power: High: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 27 September 2014

E-mail logs to: coqlogs@ppraa.org

Mail logs to: Colorado QSO Party, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521, USA

Find rules at: <http://ppraa.org/downloads/coqp/2014%20COQP%20Rules%2014-2.pdf>



SCC RTTY Championship

12:00 UTC 30 August to 11:59 UTC 31 August

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and 4-digit year license first issued

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 2 points per QSO between different W, VE, VK, ZL, ZS, JA and PY call areas, LU provinces and Asiatic Russia UA9/UA0 oblasts; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each 4-digit year licensed once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://lea.hamradio.si/scc/rtty/rtty_log_submission.htm

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://lea.hamradio.si/scc/rtty/rttyrules.htm>

YO DX HF Contest

12:00 UTC 30 August to 12:00 UTC 31 August

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed - high or low; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op Single Transmitter; Youngster/Novice (<16y)

Max power: High: >100 W; Low: 100 W or less

Exchange: YO: RS(T) and county; non-YO: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 8 points per QSO with YO station; 4 points per QSO with non-YO station on different continent; 2 points per QSO with non-YO station in different country, same continent; 1 point per QSO with non-YO station in same country

Multipliers: Each DXCC country (not YO) once per band; Each YO county once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

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Submit logs by: 30 September 2014

E-mail logs to: yodx-contest@hamradio.ro

Mail logs to: FRR, PO Box 22-50, Bucharest RO-014780, Romania

Find rules at: <http://www.yodx.ro/en/english>

SARL HF CW Contest

13:00 - 16:30 UTC 31 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band

Exchange: RST and serial no

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 7 September 2014

E-mail logs to: zs4bfn@netactive.co.za

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.sarl.org.za/Document_Store/CONT_20140101_SARL_Contest_Manual_2014.pdf

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MI QRP Labour Day CW Sprint

23:00 UTC 1 September to 03:00 UTC 2 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: less 250 mW; 250 mW - 1 W; 1 - 5 W; greater 5W

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with members; 2 points per QSO with non-member W/VE stations; 4 points per QSO with non-member DX stations

Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band; Bonus: multiply total points by 1,25 if xmtr or receiver is homebrew; Bonus: multiply total points by 1,5 if both xmtr and receiver are homebrew

Score Calculation: Total score = bonus multiplier x total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 September 2014

E-mail logs to: n8xx@arrl.org

Mail logs to: Hank Greeb, N8XX, 5727 11 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.qsl.net/migrpclub/contest.html>

Next Weeks Contests

MI QRP Labour Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 1 September to 03:00 UTC 2 September

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 September

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 September and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 September

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 September (Dig)

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 5 September

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 September

G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest, 23:00 UTC 5 September to 23:00 UTC 7 September

CWops CW Open, 00:00 - 03:59 UTC, 12:00 - 15:59 UTC and 20:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 September

All Asian DX Contest, Phone, 00:00 UTC 6 September to 24:00 UTC 7 September

Russian RTTY WW Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 September

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 6 September

AGCW Straight Key Party, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 6 September

RSGB SSB Field Day, 13:00 UTC 6 September to 13:00 UTC 7 September

IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, 13:00 UTC 6 September to 12:59 UTC 7 September

Ohio State Parks on the Air, 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 6 September

PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80 m Sprint, 20:00 local 6 September to 02:00 local 7 September

North American Sprint, CW, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 September

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, 11:00 - 17:00 UTC 7 September

Tennessee QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 7 September to 03:00 UTC 8 September

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is hosting its next flea market 12:00 on Saturday 30 August 2014 at their clubhouse in Kroton street, Weltevredenpark, Roodepoort. Everybody is welcome. For more information contact Noel, ZR6DX, on 082 490 9934. So take your fleas to the market!



Icom preview 50th anniversary Limited Edition IC-7850

Icom have displayed a pre-release version of a very special HF Base Station at the Tokyo Hamfest, the IC-7850 HF/50 MHz transceiver. The IC-7850 'collector's piece' will be produced early in 2015 in very limited numbers to celebrate Icom's 50th Anniversary. Based on the benchmark IC-7800, the IC-7850 will share many similarities with Icom's current top of the range IC-7800.

Although using a similar layout, interface and platform, RF circuitry, parts of the logic sections and I/O interfaces have been improved. The receive circuit is also redesigned to have the best industry class 1st LO phase noise performance and the RMDR (Reciprocal Mixing Dynamic Range) performance now has a 20 dB improvement over the IC-7800.

Cosmetically, the radio boasts gold colour dials, buttons and side strips, the front panel is finished in a stunning deep clear piano black and a special machined anodised aluminium black / gold tuning dial, to finish off each model carries a special 50th Anniversary serial number plaque on top with Mr Inoue's signature.

Planned Features:

- Best in industry class 1st LO Phase noise figure (approximately 20 dB improvement for 1 kHz offset)
- RMDR performance at 14.2 MHz with 1 kHz offset, CW Mode: 101 dB (roofing filter: 3 kHz, IF BW: 500 Hz)
- Added USB ports/500 kHz band compatibility

Further improvements over current IC-7800 functions and features are under consideration and will be confirmed later. Download the IC-7850 pre-release leaflet (PDF) (800 Kb) <http://www.icomuk.co.uk/getFile.asp?categoryID=3734&cCID=18265&fFID=683>



History this Week, week starting 11 August 2014

HISTORY

55BC - Roman forces under Julius Caesar invade Britain

1609 - Galileo demonstrates his first telescope to Venetian lawmakers

1831 - Michael Faraday demonstrated the first electrical transformer

1884 - First known photograph of a tornado is made near Howard, SD

1885 - Gottlieb Daimler receives German patent for a motorcycle

1887 - Thomas A Edison patents Kinetoscope, (produces moving pictures)

1913 - Lt Peter Nesterov, of Imperial Russian Air Service, performs a loop in a monoplane at Kiev. (first aerobatic manoeuvre in an airplane)

1939 - Erich Warsitz makes first jet-propelled flight (in a Heinkel He-178)

1979 - First recorded occurrence-comet hits sun (energy = 1 mil hydrogen bombs)



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin